

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with regard to the above-identified application, which Official Action the Examiner has designated as being FINAL.

Claims 1-30 were pending in this application at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action. By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2 and 17 have been cancelled, and no claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 as hereinabove amended will constitute the claims pending in this application in the event that the Examiner grants the entry of the foregoing Amendment.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Failed to acknowledge Applicants claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f), and the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required copies of the priority documents for this application – Applicants respectfully note that these acknowledgements appear in the previous Official Action in this application;
2. Provided Applicants with a copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied their Information Disclosure Statement of December 26, 2000 duly signed, dated and initialed by the Examiner in confirmation of his consideration of the art listed therein;
3. Failed to provide Applicants with an indication concerning the acceptability of the New Drawing for this application filed on 4 June 2004 wherein Figures 14A, 14B, 14C and 15 are designated as -- CONVENTIONAL ART – AS INDICATED IN Applicants' Request for Drawing Change Approval filed as part of the next previous Amendment in this Application – **Applicants respectfully request approval of the new drawings filed on 4 June 2004 in response to this communication;**

4. Rejected Claims 1, 3-7, 10-16, 18-22 and 25-30 under 35 USC 103(a) as  
being unpatentable over US Patent 6,320,562 to Ueno, et al in view of U.S. Patent  
6,496,170 to Yoshida et al; and
5. Objected to Claims 2, 8, 9, 17, 23 and 24 as being dependent upon rejected  
base claims, but indicated that the same would be allowable if rewritten in independent  
form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening  
claims

With respect to items 1-3, Applicants respectfully submit that no further comment in these  
Remarks is required.

With respect to items 4 and 5, Applicants by the foregoing Amendment have proposed that Claim  
2 be canceled, without prejudice, and its limitations be incorporated into Claim 1. In addition,  
Applicants have proposed that Claim 17 be canceled, without prejudice, and that its limitations be  
incorporated into Claim 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing  
Amendment, this application will be in condition for allowance. More particularly, the Examiner has  
indicated that Claims 2 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the  
limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. This has been done by the  
foregoing amendment that cancels Claims 2 and 17 and incorporates the respective limitations thereof  
into their respective base Claims 1 and 16. Further, since all of the remaining claims of this application  
will depend either directly or indirectly from either allowable Claim 1 or allowable Claim 16 in the event  
that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims  
3-15 and 18-30 will also be allowable in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing  
amendment.

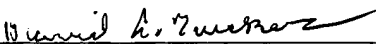
Applicant: N. Yasunishi, et al  
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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing Amendment, all of the claims of this application will be in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's previous decisions in this application. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment is in full compliance with the terms of 37 CFR 1.116 and should be entered by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Amendment, reconsideration of this application and allowance Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 as hereinabove amended in response to this communication.

Further, Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the foregoing Remarks in support of Applicants' traverse of all of the currently outstanding rejections of the claims of the above-identified application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 3, 2005

  
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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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